THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and the north-eastern states apart from Assam, do not have Passport Offices.

(b) So far we have not been able to establish a Passport Office in Shimla. But a Passport Collection Centre exists there.

(c) The reason for not opening a Passport Office in Shimla is mainly due to manpower constraints.

(d) Government has decided to open Passport Office in Shimla depending upon the availability of manpower and logistic arrangements.

Russian Offer in Atomic Energy Sector

†1027. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian Premier V. Putin had made an offer to Government that if India fulfils the conditions of Nuclear Supplier Group countries, its atomic energy related requirements would continue to be fulfilled;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government in the said context, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Two reactors of 1000 MW each are being constructed a Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in technical cooperation with the Russian Federation. India and Russia are discussing the expansion of bilateral cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The two countries agree that the bilateral cooperation can be further expanded.

(c) and (d) India is in contact with a broad range of NSG countries, including Russia, to enable full civilian energy cooperation with India.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.